



Thomas

MUGG [c1794-1880]

&

Elizabeth

MUGG [c1795-1877]

(née WOOLACOTT)

Married on 31 July 1816 at St Georges Church, Bloomsbury, London

Departed 23 November 1838 from London
Arrived 16 May 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

Planter

Children of Thomas & Elizabeth:

Ann (1817-?) did not travel to SA

James (1821-1893)

Thomas (1823-1893) m Mary Ann SANDERS

Selena (1827-1902) m [1] Henry BROOKES
[2] William TREVERTON

Ann (1828-1899) married William SIMMONS

Elizabeth (1828-1906) m Thomas WHITE

Hannah (1830-1908) m Henry FYFFE

William (1833-?) m Jane McCOURT

George (1836-1896) m Elizabeth ABBOTT

Perilous Journey to Become Teacher & Cemetery Curator

Although the Mugg family had lived in Devon, for generations, Thomas and Elizabeth established themselves in London where their younger children were christened at St Pancras Old Church.

The voyage to South Australia aboard the *Planter* is considered infamous as a result of the revelations in fellow passenger James Bell's diary. Thomas himself kept a diary that has since been lost, but copied pages mention an attempted mutiny off the coast of Rio de Janeiro.

Upon arrival in Adelaide, the family resided in Sturt Street. As well as working as a cabinet-maker, Thomas was one of the founders of the Adelaide Institute and State Library. Obviously well educated, Thomas appreciated that books and learning should be available to all.

On 6 April 1847, an advertisement appeared stating "A teacher wanted for Mitcham, Brown Hill Creek, to teach English, reading, grammar, writing, arithmetic and geography." Thomas applied and was installed as the first teacher at Mitcham and was initially responsible for twenty students. He remained until 1867, teaching, as one student recalled, "reading, writing and arithmetic. Geography and grammar he knew nothing about and did not attempt to teach." He was a fair, if stern, teacher and did not stint in the use of the cane – his wife also was well known for giving 'thimble pie', a sharp rap with a thimble-tipped finger while teaching sewing.

Thomas developed an interest in aboriginal affairs, and founded a mission at Pt. McLeay, where his family assisted in teaching trades and household duties. The couple attended chapel, where Thomas led the singing in a voice "not melodious but rasping, and his idea of time was awfully defective".

The family resided in a house at the top of Mugg's Hill Road, near the Mitcham Cemetery where Thomas was the curator for twenty two years and where he and his wife were eventually laid to rest.

From information provided by Lois Watson
Thomas & Elizabeth's great great great granddaughter
March 2015

